GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3301
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2017
Monthly Rental of Set Top Box
Charitra Shri Ram

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the broadcasting regulator has proposed that television households should pay Rs. 1.30 as monthly rental per set top box for 100 standards Definition Channels and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the regulator has also proposed a genre-wise ceiling on the channel prices and the details thereof; and

(c) whether the distributors of TV channels can form bouquets only from a la carte channels of broadcasters and if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING {COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a): Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a tariff order namely "The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Eighth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff Order, 2017" on 3rd March, 2017, which provides that:

â€¢ Network Capacity Fee charged by a distributor of TV Channels from subscribers for the distribution network capacity for initial 100 Standard Definition (SD) channels shall not exceed Rs.130/- (excluding taxes) per month.

â€¢ Within the capacity of 100 SD channels, in addition to channels to be mandatorily provided to subscribers as notified by the Central Government, a subscriber will be free to choose any Free-to-Air (FTA) channel, pay channel, or bouquet of pay channels offered by the broadcasters or bouquet of pay channels offered by the distributor of television channels or bouquet of free-to-air channels offered by the distributor of television channels or a combination thereof.

:2:

â€¢ No separate charges, other than the Network Capacity Fee, to be paid by the subscribers for subscribing to free-to-air channels or bouquet of free-to-air channels.

A subscriber has to pay separate charges, other than the Network Capacity Fee, for subscribing to pay channels or bouquet of pay channels.

(b): TRAI has not prescribed any genre wise ceiling on the prices of pay channels.

(c): The distributors of TV channels can form bouquets from a-la-carte pay channels and bouquet of pay channels of broadcasters. The details are as under:
"It shall be permissible for a distributor of television channels to offer bouquet(s) formed from pay channels of one or more broadcasters and declare distributor retail price(s) , per month, of such bouquet(s) payable by a subscriber:
Provided that such bouquet shall not contain any pay channel for which maximum retail price per month declared by the broadcaster is more than rupees nineteen:
Provided further that the distributor retail price per month of such bouquet of pay channels shall not be less than eighty five percent of the sum of distributor retail prices per month of a-la-carte pay channels and bouquet(s) of pay channels forming part of that bouquet:
Provided further that the distributor retail price per month of a bouquet of pay channels offered by a distributor of television channels shall, in no case, exceed the sum of maximum retail prices per month of a-la-carte pay channels and bouquet(s) of pay channels, declared by broadcasters, forming part of that bouquet:
Provided further that such bouquet shall not contain any free-to-air channel:
Provided also that such bouquet shall not contain both HD and SD variants of the same channel.
A full text of the tariff order is available at TRAI website under the link: http://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Tariff_Order_English_3%20March_2017.pdf.

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